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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, July 21, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended July 16, totaled 18.6 billion ton-miles, up 4.4 percent from the 17.8 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987.

Cumulative volume for the first 28 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 530.9 billion ton-miles carried, up 8.0 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended July 16 totaled 410,842, up 2.3 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 17.7 percent above the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 1.7 percent in the East, and 3.0 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 13 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Loadings of metallic ores were up 6,314 cars (40.9 percent); coal increased by 2,848 cars (2.6 percent), while grain loadings were off 4,639 cars (13.5 percent). Eighteen of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended July 9, which included the Independence Day holiday, totaled 94,207 trailers and/or containers, down 3.1 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 27 weeks of the year was 2,918,464 trailers and/or containers, up 5.3 percent from 1987.

(more)

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Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 7/16/88:

	Loadings in Week ended July 16, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	29,843	D	4,639	13.5	I	153	0.4
Other farm products	3,476	D	59	1.7	I	216	6.6
Metallic ores	21,765	I	6,314	40.9	D	595	2.7
Coal	114,422	I	2,848	2.6	I	32,154	39.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	18,322	I	1,146	6.7	I	2,427	15.3
Nonmetallic minerals	10,413	I	1,924	22.7	I	675	6.9
Grain mill products	10,525	D	182	1.7	I	1,468	16.2
Food and kindred products	10,643	I	86	0.8	I	1,785	20.2
Primary forest products	9,875	D	1,020	9.4	I	2,559	35.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,062	D	1,171	14.2	I	1,595	29.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	11,832	I	116	1.0	I	346	3.0
Chemicals and allied products	26,897	I	2,150	8.7	I	2,329	9.5
Petroleum products	5,208	I	53	1.0	I	454	9.5
Stone, clay and glass products	11,746	I	567	5.1	I	1,707	17.0
Coke	5,955	I	988	19.9	I	194	3.4
Metals and products	10,614	I	1,407	15.3	I	2,192	26.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	12,456	D	2,094	14.4	D	259	2.0
Waste and scrap materials	9,279	I	585	6.7	I	2,095	29.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,326	D	517	18.2	I	325	16.2
All other carloads	78,183	I	904	1.2	I	10,091	14.8
Total Cars Loaded	410,842	I	9,406	2.3	I	61,911	17.7
Corresponding week of 1987	401,436						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (28 weeks)	11,729,346	11,078,722	I 5.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
27 weeks ended July 9	512.3	473.7	I 8.1
Week ended July 16	18.6	17.8	D 4.4
28 Weeks cumulative	530.9	491.5	I 8.0

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